

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00437 140727Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 /035 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4690

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 00437

PASS WHITEHOUSE FOR DR. PETER BOURNE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO PRESIDENT, FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, SHUM, SREP
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BY NEW
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

1. MR. POUL HARTLING, THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES, OUTLINED TO ME SOME OF THE PLANS THAT HE HAS FOR
HIS OFFICE DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON HIM EARLIER THIS
WEEK. HARTLING IS THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK
AND VISITED THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1975 IN THAT CAPACITY.
BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT HE ATTACHES TO U.S. SUPPORT
AND THE SIGNIFICANCE HE SEES IN THE PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE
ON HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, HE WANTS TO BEGIN HIS ACTIVITIES
BY AN INITIAL CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER. THIS, HE BE-
LIEVES, WOULD SET A TONE AND LEVEL OF INTEREST THAT WOULD
GIVE HIS EFFORTS THE KIND OF MOMENTUM THAT HE BELIEVES
WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF HE IS TO COPE SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE
TASKS FACING HIM.

2. MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT WE OUGHT TO DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT HIM AND THAT NO EFFORT BE SPARED TO
TRY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SPEND A
SHORT TIME WITH HIM. HARTLING HAS SUGGESTED THAT HE COME
TO WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 27 AND 28, AND HAS ASKED US TO
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00437 140727Z

CHECK WHETHER THESE DATES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. IF THEY
ARE, THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST CALL IN A SERIES ON CHIEFS
OF STATE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. (HE IS THINKING OF GOING
ON TO CANADA, THEN THE FAR EAST.) SINCE HE IS ANXIOUS
TO BEGIN HIS WORK, I FEAR THAT IF WE WERE TO DELAY THE
CALL HE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO BEGIN ELSEWHERE, WHICH I
DON'T THINK WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST OR HIS. FOR THE

FOREGOING REASONS, I URGE YOU PERSONALLY TO INTERVENE TO
SEE WHETHER SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT ON ONE OF THE
ABOVE DATES.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING PERSONALLY IN TOUCH
WITH ME TO LET ME KNOW YOUR REACTION TO THE FOREGOING.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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